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GOVERNOR

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



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February 22, 2022

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1695, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

I am Steven Goble, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC). The SFC supports HB 1695, HD 1, which increases from \$2,000 to \$5,000 the maximum fine that may be assessed against certain fireworks-related violations.

There is a general sense that the use of illegal fireworks and improvised explosive devices have substantially increased in recent years. A search of youtube.com using the term "aerial fireworks Hawaii New Years" reveals pervasive use of illegal aerial fireworks in many neighborhoods. As a consequence, serious injuries, property damage, and fatalities have occurred.

The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 1695, HD 1.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Steven Goble".

STEVEN GOBLE
Chair

SG/GL

HONOLULU FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

636 South Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-5007
Phone: 808-723-7139 Fax: 808-723-7111 Internet: www.honolulu.gov/hfd

RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR



SHELDON K. HAO
FIRE CHIEF

JASON SAMALA
DEPUTY FIRE CHIEF

February 23, 2022

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1695, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

My name is Sheldon K. Hao, Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The HFD supports HB 1695, HD 1, which increases the maximum fine that may be assessed against certain fireworks-related violations from \$2,000 to \$5,000.

A search of aerial fireworks in Hawaii via a major video-sharing website reveals pervasive use of illegal aerial fireworks in many neighborhoods thereby confirming the use of illegal fireworks and improvised explosive devices have substantially increased in recent years. As a consequence, serious injuries, property damage, and fatalities have occurred.

The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended the legislature consider increasing fireworks violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks.

The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the HFD, and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 1695, HD 1.

Should you have questions, please contact Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 808-723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sheldon K. Hao".

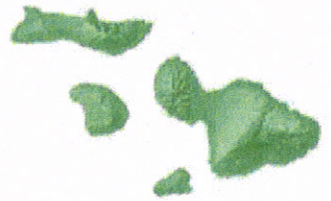
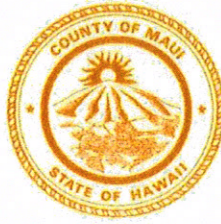
SHELDON K. HAO
Fire Chief

SKH/GL:cn

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
Mayor

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

GAVIN L.M. FUJIOKA
Deputy Fire Chief



DEPARTMENT OF FIRE & PUBLIC SAFETY
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, HI 96732

February 22, 2022

The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 306
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Luke:

Subject: House Bill (HB) 1695, House Draft (HD) 1 Relating to Fireworks

I am Bradford Ventura, member of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Chief to the Maui Fire Department. The SFC supports HB 1695, HD 1, which increases from \$2,000 to \$5,000 the maximum fine that may be assessed against certain fireworks-related violations.

There is a general sense that the use of illegal fireworks and improvised explosive devices have substantially increased in recent years. A search of youtube.com using the term "aerial fireworks Hawaii New Years" reveals pervasive use of illegal aerial fireworks in many neighborhoods. As a consequence, serious injuries, property damage, and fatalities have occurred.

The illegal fireworks task force established by Act 170, Session Laws of Hawaii 2010, recommended that the legislature consider increasing fireworks violation fines to deter the use of illegal fireworks. The general welfare, public safety, and property protection are priorities for the SFC and we respectfully request your committee's passage of HB 1695, HD 1.

Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Gary Lum at 723-7169 or glum@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Brad Ventura".

BRADFORD K. VENTURA
Fire Chief

HB-1695-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 6:24:44 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Mike Moran	Kihei Community Association (KCA)	Support	No

Comments:

We ask for your support of this measure. If fines are more severe, there is an improved chance that offenders will be more hesitant to break the law. Mahalo

Mike Moran for KCA

HB-1695-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 7:13:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

This should be a no-brainer. Fireworks are dangerous to human and animal health, disturb public peace . Please advance HB1695HD1

HB-1695-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 8:55:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Larry Veray	Pearl City Neighborhood Board Chair	Support	No

Comments:

As Chair of the Pearl City Neighborhood Board and representing the many residents in Pearl City who are victimized nightly by illegal aerial bomb fireworks, the fine should be increased to \$5,000 to allow for flexibility and to fine bad actors for serious violations for example shooting off within 100 yards of school, adult/child day care centers, schools and hospitals.

HB-1695-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 11:43:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

i'm not sure what good it will do but i support this measure. right now all those who fire off these dangerous missiles know there is a slim chance they will get caught so i doubt it will be much of a deterrent.

HB-1695-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 4:03:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Committee on Finance,

I strongly support the passage of HB 1695, HD 1 this session to deter the use of illegal fireworks statewide. This is a public health and safety issue in all our communities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1695-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 4:20:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ann S Freed	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita and members,

Strong support for the bill. In my Launani Valley neighborhood, we are now subject to year-round bombs and constant disturbance of our peace.

PLEASE pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed in Mililani

HB-1695-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2022 10:39:46 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Vijak Ayasanonda	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a full time resident, fireworks in my neighborhood have caused damage, noise pollution and not to mention the trauma to my dogs and cat. My other neighbors who do not participate also find the few individuals blatantly disregarding noise, time or use of illegal fireworks. Police even when called refuse to do anything about it as they say even my video evidence is insufficient for them to cite or arrest or confiscate the offender.

There needs to be more fines and more enforcement of individuals and those to supply/ship them to Hawaii

HB-1695-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 9:41:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kristin Mills	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident in Pukalani and am in strong support of HB1695. We need more stringent laws and penalties around noise pollution. Every big holiday especially, there is excessive and very loud fireworks, and most likely, illegal fire crackers late into the night. Pukalani sounds like a war zone and it's especially not healthy for pets and for people experiencing PTSD around loud noise.

Please support HB1695.

Mahalo, Kristin Mills

HB-1695-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 11:18:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Gary J Mooers	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kyle,

I understand that you are involved in fireworks control for our County. I am so thankful that our elected officials are finally listening to the people who elected them.

Fireworks are such a nuisance, especially the loud ones. I am not a veteran, but I can't imagine how traumatic it must be for people who made the sacrifice to defend our nation, only to come home with PTSD which is re-ignited every time one of those "bombs" go off in the air. To me, that is the #1 reason why these fireworks are wrong to allow for another minute.

Another reason is our pets. Numerous pets are so traumatized that they run away from their home, trying to get away from the noise. Often this results in serious injury or death to our pets.

Least in importance, but still paramount in importance to me and my family, is the disturbance to our right to enjoy our home peacefully.

We love to watch fireworks shows, when we go to a fireworks show. We never asked for this loud invasive situation that we face every New Years and Independence Day.

Maui should have noise disturbance laws, and enforce them! The same is true for modified exhaust on vehicles all over the island. A policeman on the radio told me the reason we don't have noise ordinances is because they cannot afford the equipment to measure the decibel level of the noise. We are not a 3rd-world country, to allow this is a travesty.

In addition to enforcement, fines should be high enough to discourage this activity. Price is no issue, as it seems, to these violent intruders, as these fireworks are quite costly. So the fines need to be big enough to get their attention.

I look forward to seeing progress made in civilizing our beautiful island.

HB-1695-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:33:55 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Beverly Heiser	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Please support HB1695.

I have joined a forum called STOP All (Illegal) Fireworks that was formed on a social networking service for neighborhoods called NextDoor. The group currently has 94 members.

My family does NOT do fireworks of any kind. Yet every New Year's day DEBRIS from ILLEGAL fireworks from New Year's Eve lay scattered over our entire yard. Some land on our roof and wash down our gutters. I have dogs and these debris contain TOXIC chemicals that can cause illness if ingested. Thus I spend hours cleaning up the mess.

These toxic chemicals that often contain heavy metals are being dispersed in our environment and pollute our air, water, and soil. They cause harm to people, pets, and wildlife.

The problem has increased over the years and is out of control. There is increased noise and life changing injuries. Tradition should not sound or look like a war zone.

I favor a TOTAL BAN on all types of fireworks, but at the least this type of ILLEGAL activity should be stopped.

Thank you for letting me testify. Please support HB1695.

HB-1695-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 4:55:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2022 12:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Samuel Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB-1695 HD1 because raising the maximum fine to \$5000 dollars is a good idea

Samuel Mitchell Makiki NB-10 & Pau Fireworks Now